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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,204	02/20/2004	Yi-Shiuan Tsai	250119-1140	6692

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EXAMINER

SAWHNEY, HARGOBIND S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/783,204

Applicant(s)

TSAI ET AL

Examiner

Hargobind S. Sawhney

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 8, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 7 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/22/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the prior art admitted by the applicant, hereinafter referred as " the prior art ".

Regarding claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 11, the prior art discloses a backlight module (Instant application, Figure 1B, Para. 003) comprising:

- a bezel 11 including a bezel side plate 11b connected to a bezel base 11a, and an engagement structure 11c on the external side surface of the bezel side plate 11b (Instant application, Figure 1B, Para. 003);
- a reflective shell 14 including a reflective top plate 14a connected to a reflective side plate 14b, which includes an engagement hole 14c tightly engageable to the engagement structure 11c defined on the external side surface of the bezel side plate 11b (Instant application, Figure 1B, Para. 003);

- the bezel base 11a, the bezel side plate 11b and the engagement structure 11c being integrally formed into one-piece structure (Instant application, Figure 1C, Para. 003);
- the reflective shell top plate 14a and the reflective shell side plate 14b being at an angle ranging from 80 to 90 degrees - substantially perpendicular (Instant application, Figure 1C, Para. 003);
- a light guide plate 12 disposed on the bezel base 11a, and the light guide plate 12 spaced apart from the bezel side plate 11b (Instant application, Figures 1C and 1D, Para. 003);
- the top surface of the light guide plate 12 being in closed contact with the bottom of surface of the reflective shell top plate 14a (Instant application, Figure 1B, Para. 003); and
- a cold cathode fluorescent lamp 13 positioned between the bezel side plate 11b and the light guide plate 12 (Instant application, Figure 1B, Para. 003).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-5, 7 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record, including the prior art admitted by the applicant, Burke (US Patent No.: 5,479,285), and Chu et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No.: US 2004/0080952 A1), fails to show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a backlight module combining:

- an engagement structure having its cantilever portion and clamping portions each connected to and protruding over the external side surface of the bezel side plate as recited in claims 2 and 4;
- the cantilever portion having its width smaller than that of the clamping portion as recited in each of claims 2 and 4; and
- a reflective shell including a reflective side plate with a T-shaped engagement hole as recited in Claim 7.

The above-indication combination of the engagement structure with the backlight module makes this invention unique

Neither combined nor individual teaching of the above-indicated prior arts meets the limitations of each of claims 2 and 4. Therefore, each of claims 2 and 4 are allowed over the prior art.

Claim 3 is necessarily objected because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 2.

Claim 5 is necessarily objected because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 4.

4. Claims 12-17 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including the prior art admitted by the applicant, Burke (US Patent No.: 5,479,285), and Chu et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No.: US 2004/0080952 A1), fails to show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a backlight module combining:

- an engagement structure having its cantilever portion and clamping portions each connected to and protruding over the external side surface of the bezel side plate as recited in Claim 12; and
- the cantilever portion having its width smaller than that of the clamping portion as recited in Claim 12.

The above-indication combination of the engagement structure with the backlight module makes this invention unique

Neither combined nor individual teaching of the above-indicated prior arts meet the limitations of the Claim 12. Therefore Claim 12 is allowed over the prior art.

Claims 2-17 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed Claim 12.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Matsuo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,762,806 B1), Jung (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,377 B1), Fukuyoshi (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,484 B2) and Fisk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,641 B1)

Art Unit: 2875

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S. Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS

7/7/05


Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner